

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, mandates that all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP will guide management decisions by identifying Refuge goals, long-range objectives and management strategies for achieving the Refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection, wildlife-dependant recreation and other public uses, cultural resources, and environmental effects. Public input into this planning process is important. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuge and how the Service will manage the Refuge Complex.

The Service is soliciting information from the public via written comments and public meetings. Interested parties are urged to submit their names and addresses to be added to the Service's mailing list. The Service will periodically send out special planning updates to those who are interested in the Refuge Complex. Among other things, these mailings will provide information on how to participate in the CCP planning process. Comments received will be used to identify key issues and to develop goals, objectives, and management strategies. Additional opportunities for public participation will occur throughout the process, which is expected to be completed in mid 2001.

The Kern Refuge Complex is composed of three refuges: Kern, Pixley, and Blue Ridge. Kern Refuge is located 19 miles west of Delano, California at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. It was established in 1960 to provide wintering habitat for waterfowl in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The Kern Refuge consists of a single, 10,618-acre unit owned by the Federal government. The Refuge purpose is to provide " * * an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." 16 U.S.C. 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act).

Pixley Refuge is located approximately 19 miles south of the City of Tulare, northeast of Kern Refuge. This Refuge was set aside in 1959 to provide wintering habitat for waterfowl as well as the endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard. Pixley Refuge is composed of a 8,800 acres, of which about 70 percent are owned by the Federal government. The Refuge purposes are: (1) " * * a land-conservation and land-utilization

program * * * 7 U.S.C. 1011 (Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act); (2) " * * as refuges for migratory birds and other wildlife: * * * Secretarial Order 2843, dated Nov. 17, 1959; and (3) " * * to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species * * * or (B) plants * * * 16 U.S.C. 1534 (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

Blue Ridge Refuge is located in central Tulare County, northeast of Porterville, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. This Refuge was established in 1982 to protect critical roosting habitat for the California condor. The 897 acres in the Blue Ridge Refuge are all owned by the Federal government. The refuge purpose is " * * to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species * * * or (B) plants * * * 16 U.S.C. 1534 (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

The outcome of this planning process will be a CCP to guide Refuge management for the next 15 years and accompanying NEPA document. It is estimated that a draft CCP and NEPA document will be made available for public review in the latter part of 2000.

Dated: August 9, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-010-07-1020-00-241A]

Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The next meeting of the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 1999, at the Garfield County Courthouse in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

DATES: Wednesday, September 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: For further information, contact Lynn Barclay, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 455 Emerson Street, Craig, Colorado 81625; Telephone (970) 826-5096.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Northwest Resource Advisory Council will meet on September, 29, 1999, at the Garfield County Courthouse, County Commissioners Meeting Room, 109 8th

Street, Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and include discussions of the proposed statewide recreation guidelines, grazing permit renewals, and wilderness review.

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements following the meeting. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of council meetings are maintained at the Bureau of Land Management Offices in Grand Junction and Craig, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

Dated: August 10, 1999.

Mark T. Morse,

Center Manager, Northwest Center.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Park Service, Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida.

SUMMARY: This Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (ORVMP/SFEIS) identifies and assesses potential impacts of alternative options for the management of off-road vehicles within the Big Cypress National Preserve. The ORVMP/SFEIS describes management concerns which include the need to protect natural resources while providing recreational ORV access to the Preserve.

DATES: The ORVMP/SFEIS will be available for review August 13, 1999, until November 12, 1999. Written comments must be received by the Superintendent at the address below or postmarked no later than November 12, 1999. Public meetings will be held in the Preserve area at times to be published in local newspapers.

ADDRESSES: The ORVMP/SFEIS may be viewed on the Internet at www.nps.gov/BICY/ORVPLAN. Copies of the ORVMP/SFEIS are available from the Superintendent at the following address. Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, HCR 61, Box 110,